



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Ashley Dalton MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Public Health and Prevention*

*39 Victoria Street
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Your Ref: AG5371
PO-1590640

Andrew George MP

By email to: [REDACTED]

8 April 2025

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 March on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED] about COVID-19.

I appreciate [REDACTED] concerns.

The evidence supporting droplet and fomite transmission of COVID-19 comes from multiple sources, including epidemiological studies, laboratory experiments and observations of outbreak patterns. Current guidance from the UK Health Security Agency can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-background-information/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-epidemiology-virology-and-clinical-features.

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, primarily spreads between people in close contact, such as at conversational distance. Transmission occurs when an infected person releases small liquid particles from their mouth or nose while coughing, sneezing, speaking, singing or breathing. These particles can be inhaled by others or land on their mucous membranes, leading to infection. Further information on this can be found at www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-how-is-it-transmitted.

The extent to which airborne transmission contributes to the overall spread of COVID-19 has been a subject of ongoing research and discussion within the scientific community. While the predominant evidence indicates that COVID-19 spreads mainly through respiratory droplets and, to a lesser extent, fomites, airborne transmission via aerosols and other routes cannot be entirely ruled out, particularly in poorly ventilated and crowded spaces.

Although the terms 'droplets' and 'aerosols' remain widely used in scientific literature, the WHO has recommended updates to this terminology. This is because there is a growing consensus within the scientific community that strictly labelling particles as either droplets or aerosols is not accurate.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

ASHLEY DALTON